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**New Jersey
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NJMC NEWS RELEASE

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NJMC to Make Permitting Process More Efficient

LYNDHURST, N.J. – In an effort to promote greater government efficiency, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) today announced plans to work with the state Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to share the permitting process for certain development applications within the Meadowlands District. Under the proposal, NJMC engineers would perform preliminary technical and administrative reviews for several NJDEP permits often required for local projects, creating the potential for a more efficient review process without modifying any regulatory standards.

“Two agencies working jointly to achieve greater efficiency is a textbook example of how government can do more with less,” said Joseph Doria, Chairman of the NJMC and Commissioner of the state Department of Community Affairs. “By pooling our resources we can share the permitting process and maintain our high regulatory standards.”

“This agreement with the Meadowlands Commission allows the DEP to focus its expertise completely on protecting the environment and reflects the DEP’s ongoing efforts to improve the environmental permitting process,” DEP Acting Commissioner Mark Mauriello said.

The NJMC and NJDEP will draft a memorandum of understanding outlining the permit efficiency plan in the coming weeks. The agreement must be signed by both agencies before it can take effect, and it would not in any way change the standards or requirements that exist for permit compliance.

Under the proposal, NJMC engineers could review Meadowlands District property owners’ applications for Waterfront Development and Flood Hazard Area permits, a process that normally begins at the NJDEP. Commission staff is particularly well-suited for this task given their knowledge of the local area and its hydrology, and their understanding of the permitting process. As a result, property owners with compliant

projects may be able to receive their permits sooner, which would allow them to get started on approved work more quickly than had been possible in the past.

When reviewing the permits, the NJMC's evaluation would be limited to just the preliminary technical and administrative considerations. The NJDEP would remain responsible for all environmental reviews and final review of the NJMC's assessment of the technical and administrative sections.

"When government runs more efficiently everyone benefits," said Robert Ceberio, Executive Director of the NJMC. "This is an excellent opportunity for the NJMC to use its resources to improve the quality of life for residents and business owners in the Meadowlands District."

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